

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 EUR-25 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 AID-20 /156 W
----- 001523

R 071400 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6147

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 672

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, MI

SUBJ: MALAWI RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: BLANTYRE 364 NOTAL; BLANTYRE 397 NOTAL

1. PRESIDENT BANDA TOLD ME MAY 4 GOM RECEIVED THROUGH MALAWI EMBASSY ADDIS INVITATION FROM PRC SEND MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATION ON VISIT TO MAINLAND CHINA. WHEN GOM TURNED DOWN INVITATION ON GROUNDS MINISTERS TOO BUSY, PRC ASKED IF MALAWI WOULD SEND PEOPLE- TO- PEOPLE DELEGATION. AGAIN GOM REPLIED NEGATIVELY. PRC THEN INQUIRED WHETHER GOM WOULD RECEIVE CHINESE DELEGATION SHOULD ONE BE TRAVELING IN AFRICA. TO THIS GOM REPLIED THAT ANSWER WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER THIS WOULD BE CONVENIENT AT TIME OF SPECIFIC DATES PROPOSED.

2. COMMENT: DURING MEETING WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE FACULTY AND STUDENTS MAY 1, PRESIDENT BANDA MENTIONED THESE EXCHANGES. MALAWI POSITION IS SIMILAR TO THAT TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER NORTH KOREAN OVERTURES WHICH RESULTED IN VISIT BY NORTH KOREANS. WE BELIEVE REASON FOR MALAWI SHIFT IN APPROACH IS DESIRE TO ADJUST TO CHANGING WORLD DEVELOPMENTS AS DESCRIBED BLANTYRE 364 WHICH WE REPEATING ADDIS AND TAIPEI.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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